

Howard County Consumer Protection Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes for October 19, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

- Present: Richard Green, Jill Bussey, , Marshall McLeod, Young Smith (by telephone), Katherine Bornstein (by telephone)
- Absent: Ashlyn Hood
- Guests: Ronnie Sanderson (awaiting Council confirmation), Mary Kay Sigaty, Felicia West (by telephone)

Welcome - The Board welcomed County Council member, Mary Kay Sigaty to discuss potential County landlord-tenant legislation.

Discussion of Potential Landlord-Tenant Legislation – Following up on prior discussions of potential County legislation, Ms. Sigaty asked the Council’s legislative staff to review Montgomery County’s landlord tenant law and reimagine how that law would look in if enacted in Howard County. Ms. Sigaty provided the Board with the results for its review. She noted that parts of the Montgomery County law were left out due to differences in how departments are structured in the two counties (e.g. DILP licenses rental housing units and ensures compliance with applicable building codes). The draft includes sections that would create a landlord tenant commission that would provide an administrative tribunal for disputes that cannot be mediated as well as substantive requirements and prohibitions.

Becky provided the Board with statistics on the types of landlord tenant complaints the Office received in fy16 and so far in fy 17, and the types of inquiries the Office has received since May 1 (when the Office started keeping track of this detailed information). The Board agreed that members would review the draft and statistics before the next meeting when it will discuss how to proceed with additional fact finding and/or recommendations.

Minutes of the June meeting were approved as read.

Student Loan Forum and Resource Fair #2 - Becky and Jill updated the Board on actions they have taken since the last meeting. Becky will provide the Board with an updated status report when she makes contact with Sue Rogan and Dawn Lowe from Howard Community College. Becky will also send the Board copies of materials that were used for the last Forum and will be updated for the January event. Becky hopes to have the “Save the Date” information available for distribution by early November. The Board confirmed that no door prizes would be given and decided that decorations (aside from event posters) would not be necessary.

Young stated that she has been getting the word out to the Korean Community and has received questions about translation for parents. Becky said that materials will indicate that attendees can request translation services up to 2 weeks prior to the event. That translation can be done simultaneously using headphones if a number of people request it. Another possibility would be to have the recording of the program translated using closed captioning or overdubbing.

At its next meeting, the Board will need to decide on:

- Whether to offer food – either light snacks brought in by the Board or, if required by HCC, refreshments supplied by an approved caterer.
- Who will be in charge of pre-registration

Board Leadership – Jill announced that because of a job promotion (congrats Jill!) she will be unable to serve as chair without a vice-chair to assist. Becky reminded the Board that the election of the chair and vice-chair typically takes place in December but the Board has the ability to move the election to the November meeting. There was general consensus of the Board to have elections at the next meeting.

Announcements - The 50+ Expo will be held on October 31 at Wilde Lake HS. OCP will have a table in Exhibit Hall A. Richard and Young volunteered to help OCP staff with the table for several hours.

Becky noted changes to the OCP website and encouraged the Board to provide suggestions for videos and other forms of communications that can be used on the site.

Becky also provided the Board with a revised Board roster, the Office's fy16 annual report and additional stats on the types of inquiries and complaints received in fy16. The annual report will also be posted on the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 Note that the next meeting will not be on the first Wednesday of November.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 16, AT 7:00 PM
OFFICE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION CONFERENCE ROOM
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